

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMCONSUL WINNIPEG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1847

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, CA

SUBJECT: GARRISON DIVERSION UNIT -- IJC HEARINGS

REF: WINNIPEG 96

1. FOLLOWING ARE OBSERVATIONS OF CONOFFS WHO ATTENDED IJC HEARINGS IN WINNIPEG:

-- IJC MEMBERS WERE UNANIMOUSLY DISPLEASED WHEN THEY LEARNED THAT CANADIAN GOVERNMENT HAD UNDERTAKEN AN INDEPENDENT STUDY OF A KEY FISH SCREEN PROPOSED BY THE STUDY BOARD. THEY CONTENDED THAT SUCH A STUDY WOULD UNDERCUT THE VALIDITY OF THE BOARD S CONCLUSIONS.

-- WHEREAS HEARINGS IN WINNIPEG WERE WELL ATTENDED, ONLY 6 PERSONS SHOWED UP IN SOURIS, MANITOBA, AN AREA MUCH AFFECTED BY GARRISON. IN CONTRAST, DAY BEFORE 28 DELEGATIONS HAD BEEN HEARD IN MINOT, N.D.

-- DAN MCKENZIE, CONSERVATIVE MP FROM WINNIPEG SOUTH, SUGGESTED U.S. SET UP DOLS 100 MILLION TRUST FUND TO SHOW GOOD FAITH. IJC CHAIRMAN MAXWELL COHEN REJECTED IDEA NOTING FREEZE PUT ON SUCH PROJECTS BY CARTER ADMINISTRATION WAS SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE OF GOOD FAITH.

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-- REPORTS OF SENATE ACTION ORDERING PRESIDENT TO SPEND ALL MONEY BUDGETED FOR 19 WATER PROJECTS CAST UNCERTAINTY AND CONFUSION AMONG PARTICIPANTS ABOUT STATUS OF PROJECT.

-- MANITOBA INDIAN BROTHERHOOD (REPRESENTING 55 TRIBES) ATTACKED GARRISON FOR PROJECTED ADVERSE EFFECTS ON SOME 20,000 MANITOBA INDIANS. SPOKESMAN THEN USED FORUM TO LAUNCH AN EVEN STRONGER

ATTACK ON CANADIAN FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVTS FOR SELECTIVE
ADHERENCE TO TREATY OBLIGATIONS IN OTHER AREAS.

-- MANITOBA ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL URGED IJC TO ASK THE TWO GOVTS
TO EXPAND TERMS OF REFERENCE TO INCLUDE EXAMINATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPACT OF GARRISON ON NORTH DAKOTA AS WELL AS MANITOBA. THEY
BELIEVE DAMAGE IN NORTH DAKOTA ALONE IS SUFFICIENT TO SCUTTLE
PROJECT.

2. COMMENT: MEDIA COVERAGE HAS NOW SUBSIDED, AND THERE IS A FEELING
OF SATISFACTION HERE THAT ALL POINTS OF VIEW WERE GIVEN A FAIR
HEARING. INDEED, THE IJC PAID LITTLE ATTENTION TO TIME LIMITS FOR
SPEAKERS, AS COMMISSION MEMBERS ASSIDUOUSLY PROBED WITNESSES FOR
THE PARAMETERS OF POSSIBLE COMPROMISE. AND WITH NORTH DAKOTANS
LINED UP MAINLY FOR THE PROJECT, AND MANITOBANS MAINLY AGAINST IT,
THE IJC HAS A FORMIDABLE TASK TO FIND A BALANCED SOLUTION TO
RECOMMEND TO THE TWO GOVTS.
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